

For 15 years as Chairman and long before that, Bob has worked side by side with people from all walks of life to make our state and nation stronger through their participation. His friends include the famous and the unknown; rich and poor; black, brown, and white; urban and rural; conservative and liberal; and even some Republicans—all those who believe that by bringing people together to find the common good, the great American democratic system offers "the best hope on earth."

On Saturday, September 9th, Texas Democrats and friends from around the country will join in "A Salute to Bob Slagle" in Austin. We join in saluting Bob and thanking the Chairman for his 15-year tenure of service and lifetime of commitment to his party, state, and nation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Henry B. Gonzalez, Twentieth District; E "Kika" de la Garza, Fifteenth District; Charles Wilson, Second District; Martin Frost, Twenty-Fourth District; Charles W. Stenholm, Seventeenth District; Ralph M. Hall, Fourth District; John Bryant, Fifth District; Ronald Coleman, Sixteenth District; Solomon P. Ortiz, Twenty-Seventh District; Jim Chapman, First District; Pete Geren, Twelfth District; Chet Edwards, Eleventh District; Gene Green, Twenty-Ninth District; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Thirtieth District; Frank Tejeda, Twenty-Eighth District; Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr., Twenty-Fifth District; Lloyd Doggett, Tenth District; Shelia Jackson Lee, Eighteenth District.

#### THE PBS SERIES "THE AMERICAN PROMISE"

#### HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as has been said many times before, ours is the only Nation founded on an idea—the idea of democracy. No idea is more American. Yet the idea of democracy is neither simply defined, nor easily described. American democracy expresses itself in endless variations.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the grassroots of democracy, taking place everyday in communities across the United States, which is literally vital to the life of our Nation, yet too often ignored in the chambers of this Capitol. With this in mind, I recommend to you the American Promise, an important new PBS television series celebrating community-based democracy. The American Promise makes its national broadcast premier on October 1, 2, and 3.

Here, in Washington, we conduct democracy's most visible work. It is the democracy studied in civics and political science classrooms and reported by our newspapers, magazines, and television programs.

We arrive here after elections, propose and study legislation, debate, and then vote on competing bills and amendments. It is a fact that each stage of the process has winners and losers. By necessity we live and work in a world of partisanship and competition. Before any bill becomes the law of the land, it must be debated, tested, and its consequence thoroughly understood by the people and by us, the peoples representatives.

Not surprisingly, this world in which we are immersed leaves many citizens frustrated and

cynical. Too often, this version of democracy seems to be nothing but a political contest. Who is up? Who is down? How do yesterday's events affect the power to get things done tomorrow? Our standing is gauged by an extraordinary sensitive barometer, instantaneously reflecting each small political success and failure.

Yet this work—our work here in Washington—is but one form of American democracy. It is a serious mistake to think otherwise. In community after community throughout America, in large ways and small, citizens decide every day to become part of the democratic process. They do this by joining an organization; bringing other together to improve or expand existing services; inventing a better mousetrap; asking why a flawed practice can't be changed; engaging in a civil and respectful debate; considering another viewpoint; or shouldering the responsibility to make hard decisions.

When this happens, there are no losers. Everybody in the community wins. When a community development bank is opened when none existed before, or when individuals cooperate so that dry lands may be irrigated, no one need ask who is up, or who is down. Score keeping quickly becomes irrelevant. Through action and energy, participation and deliberation, taking responsibility and seeking common ground, American democracy comes to life and everybody in the community wins.

Mr. Speaker, In my view there is no better antidote to doubts about our Nation's future. We need only shift our gaze away from the latest reiteration of partisan one-upmanship, to the grassroots democracy taking place in our communities.

The American Promise, the new PBS series, does exactly that: it reminds us all of the community-based democracy that is found beyond this Capitol, and in so doing, it helps restore our faith in the idea of democracy, the idea of America, and the limitless possibilities for our Nation's future.

The American Promise is a 3-hour television program on civic participation and grassroots democracy. In some 50 different story segments taken from every region of the United States, lessons are offered on the skills and values needed to bring our democracy to life. These vignettes are collected around distinct themes to illustrate core American values such as freedom, responsibility, opportunity, participation, and deliberation.

One of the story segments features an outstanding example of community-based democracy in Chicago in the Seventh Congressional District which I represent. The Full Circle Fund, designed and funded by the Chicago Women's Self-Employment Project, provides vital capital along with business advice to micro-enterprises. In the last 3 years, the Women's Self-Employment Project has lent \$60,000 to 60 low-income women without a single default and a late payment rate of only three percent.

The Full Circle Fund lends to circles, of teams, all women in the circle are responsible for the loan. The circle qualifies for the loan, one or two women in the circle get the money first, then when they have begun paying it back, other circle members are eligible for funds. Circle members meet to collect loan payments, discuss their businesses, and provide each other with support and advice. Together, these women work together to create

opportunity, social capital and the backbone of community democracy.

One of the lending circle meetings at BJ's Professional Beauty Supply will be a part of the American Promise's first hour and it offers all of us much to consider and remember about our communities.

After the October PBS broadcast premier The American Promise will then be put to use in high school and junior high school classrooms throughout the United States, as an instructional tools on civics and community-based democracy.

The National Council for the Social Studies has endorsed the program. And Farmers Insurance Group, the program's corporate sponsor, has pledged to make the video, teaching guides, and classroom materials available to all interested schools and teachers at no cost.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and viewers across the Nation to tune-in to this important program. And I would like to thank the Farmers Insurance Group, and its chairman, Leo E. Denlea, Jr., for bringing The American Promise to us. The program reminds us all of what right about America, and what we have to do to make good on America's bright future.

IN HONOR OF MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. PHILLIPS

#### HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips, the Commander of the Sacramento Air Logistics Center [ALC] at McClellan Air Force Base. Major General Phillips will be retiring from the Air Force later this month after an exceptional career characterized by many significant and demanding assignments. Because of his outstanding record of leadership and accomplishments, the Secretary of Defense has asked Major Phillips to continue his service to the Nation by selecting him as Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Logistics. In this critical position, he will oversee the work done by maintenance depots for all branches of the military.

As commander of the Sacramento ALC, Major General Phillips oversees a center that employs approximately 13,500 civilian and military personnel and manages \$3.2 billion annually, including a \$548 million payroll and \$820 million in contract awards. This center provides worldwide logistics support to a number of aircraft that include the F-117 Stealth fighter, F-22, F-111 series, A-10, F-15 and KC-135; manages more than 200 communication systems and eight space systems; and repairs, overhauls and modifies entire categories of complex avionics components, hydraulic and pneumatic systems, and flight control systems.

Major General Phillips' Air Force career began when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant after receiving his bachelor of science degree with honors in biology and chemistry from Jarvis Christian College, TX. Later, he would earn his master of science degree in logistics management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. In addition, Major General Phillips has also studied and completed academic programs at several

other educational institutions including the Air Command and Staff College, the Institute of Aerospace Safety Engineering at the University of Southern California, the Defense Systems Management College, and Harvard University.

After completing his navigator training, Major General Phillips attended KC-135 combat crew training and subsequently served as an instructor navigator. He flew regular combat missions over Vietnam as a KC-135 navigator. Subsequently, Major General Phillips graduated from pilot training with top honors and worked as a T-37 instructor pilot. His responsibilities continued to become more complex and challenging as his Air Force career progressed. Major General Phillips has held many assignments in the logistics management field, including positions at the Pentagon and several Air Force bases. Perhaps one of his most fascinating assignment was as a logistics systems analyst at the Doshan Tappeh Air Base in Iran during 1978 to 1979. Major General Phillips had the misfortune of being held hostage for 3 weeks when the Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah of Iran. He was only released after the United States recognized the Khomeini regime.

Major General Phillips is an experienced pilot, navigator and instructor pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 300-plus combat flying hours over Vietnam. He has received several major military awards and decorations; some of these include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. Despite the tremendous duties of overseeing the Sacramento ALC, Major General Phillips participates in a number of community activities. He serves on the board of directors of the Sacramento Urban League Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Ballet, and is the chairman of the local Combined Federal Campaign charity drive. Major General Phillips and his wife Blanche are the parents of three children and grandparents of two.

Major General Phillips is keenly aware of the struggle that African American military officers and pilots before him have faced. In recognition of this, he helps maintain their spirit and the important history of their efforts through his service as the vice president of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

I join my colleagues today in honoring Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips for his more than 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Air Force and our Nation. I also congratulate him on his Department of Defense appointment and wish him continued success as he embarks on a new career.

#### NEWBERRY WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, an honor for me to bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and its membership an event that occurred just last week in my congressional district, the First District of Michigan. On Thursday, August 31, 1995, the Newberry Women's Club, of Newberry, MI,

celebrated its 100th anniversary. I congratulate all members of this outstanding organization, both past and present, on reaching this milestone.

First organized in 1895 as the Bay View Reading Circle, the small group of 13 women and men met to discuss issues of the day as well as matters relating to history and literature.

The organization continued to grow and in 1914 joined the State Federation and drafted its first constitution and by-laws. With more members came more involved discussions of various topics of interest to the group including art, music, education, period furniture. Individual members also composed music, wrote poetry and even wrote and produced plays that received recognition through the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Over the years, the club changed its name to the Newberry Women's Club and involved itself in many social, civic and charitable projects including the organization of a club for girls, assistance in health clinics, contributions to the Bay Cliff Health Camp, filing Christmas and Easter baskets for the needy and even providing an arts and nursing scholarship that is awarded annually to a Newberry High School graduating senior.

As the club's second century begins, their primary focus centers on education, the arts, public affairs, home life, conservation and international affairs. While their interests have certainly broadened, they have not forgotten their origins and the primary purpose of the original club.

Mr. Speaker, it is through organizations like the Newberry Women's Club that our heritage is maintained while at the same time allowing us to look forward to meet the needs of people. I congratulate the Newberry Women's Club and wish them well in their next 100 years.

#### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MATUSALA TEWOLDE-KUFLOM

#### HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with the crush of business leading up to the August district work period, I was remiss in not bringing to the attention of the House a very joyous bit of news that I know we all can appreciate and celebrate. Belatedly, I want to take a moment today to congratulate two fine individuals in Fairfax, VA on the birth of their son in May.

On May 19, Tewolde T. "Ted" Kufom and his wife, Tsehainesh Ugbazghi-Adkeme became the proud parents of their first child, Matusala Tewolde-Kufom.

"Ted" and his wife immigrated to the United States from Eritrea in September 1988 and have worked hard since then to become successful small business owners. For the last 5 years, they have operated the D-11 Market, a corner grocery store located in northeast Washington, DC.

Their hard work and determination to build a better life for themselves, and their deep love for their son, ensure that Matusala will have what we want for all children: a loving and secure home life and a chance to fully partake in the American dream.

I salute "Ted" and wife, and I know you join with me, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating them on the healthy arrival of their son, Matusala Tewolde-Kufom.

#### MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MAY REDUCE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS

#### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we have all been aware of the problems associated with birth—the possibility that an infant is born with certain defects—but up to now, we have not had a full understanding of why a child dies prematurely or fails to develop to its full human potential. Recently, at the 39th briefing before the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, Dr. James L. Mills, chief of the pediatric epidemiology section at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, described incredible advances in identifying causes of birth defects and their possible prevention.

I believe that his remarks will indicate the remarkable advances made in molecular biology at the National Institutes of Health.

#### BIRTH DEFECTS

(James L. Mills, M.D.)

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to come and share my enthusiasm for birth defects research with you today. Had I been asked to give this talk in 1980, when I first started doing birth defects research, I would have done so with considerable trepidation. The fact is, most birth defects research in those days was rather pedestrian. It was good work but not exciting. It consisted of classifying and describing various birth defects. We might have been fighting a war on cancer then, but we were hardly fighting a skirmish on birth defects.

Today, the situation has changed dramatically. Dr. Holmes has already pointed out that we have expanded our understanding of how birth defects occur tremendously. We have better strategies for identifying new causes of birth defects, and we are able to identify families at risk more accurately than we ever could before.

I will discuss several areas of research that have blossomed over the last decade. First, how biochemical abnormalities cause birth defects; next, how factors in the embryo's environment interact with intrinsic (genetic) factors within us to produce birth defects; and finally, how our understanding of these biochemical, environmental and genetic factors can lead to preventing birth defects.

First, I would like to speak about how biochemical abnormalities in mothers cause birth defects in their offspring. I have chosen as an example work done by us at NIH with collaborators at five major universities in the Diabetes in Early Pregnancy Study. Women who have diabetes at the time that they become pregnant have a greatly increased risk of having a child with a birth defect. Heart, brain and spinal cord defects are just a few of the many birth defects that infants of diabetic mothers are at increased risk of experiencing. We have learned that this increased risk is related to how well the mother is controlling her diabetes early in pregnancy. The better her control, the lower the risk. We also made a little bonus discovery. Diabetic women are also at increased risk for miscarriage. We were pleased to discover that a diabetic woman can also reduce